

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-32 are all the claims pending in the application, where claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13, 15-26, 28, 29, 31, and 32 are amended.

Specification Objections

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the specification because of the content.

The abstract of the specification is amended to address the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19, and 21-32 due to informalities. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the whole of claim 1 is grammatically incomprehensible, and claims 2, 3, 5-11, 13-19, and 21-32 incorporate the deficiencies of claim 1.

Claim 1 is amended to address the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 13-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite and failing to conform to current U.S. practice. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that while the preamble of claims 1-11 and 13-16 recites a method claim, the claims themselves do not.

Claims 1, 4, 17, and 20 are amended to conform to current U.S. practice. Claims 2, 3, 5-11, 13-16, 18, 19, and 21-32 depend on claims 1, 4, 17, or 20. Accordingly, Applicant submits

that claims 1-11 and 13-32 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 15-23, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art, Jun (Japanese Patent Laid-open 2001-266018). For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an internet connection service providing method, comprising, *inter alia*, "presetting a service class, among a plurality of service classes, for a user, wherein said service class is selected by the user" (emphasis added).

Paragraph 32 of the translation of Jun recites, "... Vendor Q set up beforehand the content of the service offered for every customer ID...which is transmitted in addition to this, and holds it, and every [which this connects] customer P is provided with the content of service...". According to the translation, Jun discloses that Vendor Q sets the content of service to be offered to a customer (i.e. user). In contrast, claim 1 recites a preset service class for a user being selected by said user.

Further, when Jun refers to calculating fees, Jun merely refers to the connection time and amount of data. For example, paragraph 13 of the translation of Jun recites, "...computing said connection fees based on the **connect time to the communication link** [and] **amount of data** [of] said Internet at the time of accessing said Internet" (emphasis added). Jun does not mention

classes of service for a user, which, if existed, would surely affect the calculation of fees. Jun fails to disclose a plurality of service classes, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied reference.

Claims 4, 17, and 20 recite one or more features analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Specifically, claims 4, 17, and 20 recite a service class, among a plurality of service classes, being selected by a user and being preset for said user. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 4, 17, and 20 are patentable over the applied reference for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21-23, and 32 depend on claims 1 or 17. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the applied reference at least by virtue of dependence on claims 1 or 17.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-11, 13-14, and 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art, Jun. The Examiner has rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art, Jun, and Applicant's admitted prior art, Kawano (Japanese Patent Laid-open 2001-298484).

Kawano fails to address the deficiencies of Jun as noted above.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-11, 13, 14, and 24-30 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of dependence on claims 1 or 17.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No.: 10/671,463

Attorney Docket No.: Q77726

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

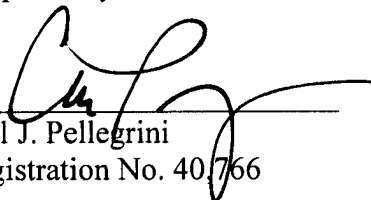
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